

Torrance School District Near 20th Year

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Props for Magic Act Disappear

Police are looking for a burglar who has plenty of tricks after he stole \$985 in magicians supplies from the home of Alan Robertson, 18, of 5009 Zakon Rd., during a daylight robbery last week.

After returning from a vacation Friday, Robertson said he noticed the best props in his \$12,000 collection of tricks missing from a bedroom. Police indicated that the thief may have known what he was looking for because none of the other valuables in the home were disturbed.

The articles, including an enchanted rabbit hutch, Abbot's Hippy Hop Rabbits, and a rabbit cabinet, were bulky enough to need a 4-foot square by 4-foot high box to carry them, Robertson reported.

HE SAID he found evidence that the thief may have hidden the magic tricks under the house and transported them at night. Police reported that the magician's parents were at home in the evening during the week the robbery took place but did not notice that the articles were missing.

"It's uneasy to unload hot magic," Robertson concluded. But, there are dealers in magic supplies in the area, he continued.

HOWEVER, he reported that some of the items taken were antiques and easily identified but not easily replaced.

The magician also said he was very interested to see if anyone in the area comes up with the same act as he has performed in the near future.

Student Relates Benefits of JA

Norman McCracken, a North High senior and past president of Stampmaster, explained the benefits he derived from his Junior Achievement business experience to prospective Junior Achievement Advisers last week. More than 100 management employes from 45 firms attended.

County Puts Back 'Puff' Derby Funds

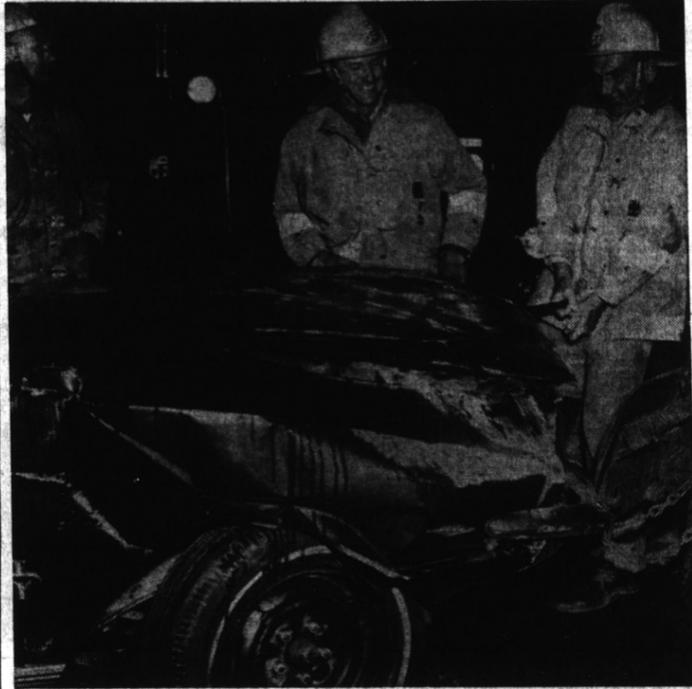
Funds for the Powder Puff Derby held in Torrance July 11, have been partially restored by the County Board of Supervisors when they approved \$3,000 for the event late Tuesday.

During the heated budget deliberations, supervisors voted unanimously to place some of \$8,000 budget request in the county budget. During an earlier budget session, Supervisor Chace was unsuccessful in his bid to obtain the funds for the women's air race as part of the 1967-68 budget.

The budget item must now pass final approval as part of the entire budget, which is expected Thursday.

The Powder Puff Derby will begin in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on July 8 and is expected to end July 11 at Torrance Municipal Airport. Contestants for the small plane contest come from all over the United States and include several from the Southwest area.

A birthday luncheon expected to draw more than 1,000 civic and government leaders from throughout Southern California was planned at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Dr. Kenneth McFar-



DRIVER KILLED . . . Los Angeles city firemen work to cut apart a late model sports car which crashed on the Harbor Freeway near Wilmington about 1:30 a.m. Sunday, killing the driver, William Jerry Avrett, 21, of Augusta, Ga., who was killed when he apparently missed a curve in the freeway and crashed down an embankment. Highway Patrol officers said the car was traveling at an estimated 100 miles per hour when the crash occurred. Avrett was stationed on the USS Girdley in San Francisco, it was reported. (Photo by Walter D. Elswick)

Pledge New Effort In Golf Course Bid

New efforts to salvage an 18-hole executive golf course for the city of Torrance will be made tomorrow when a special committee of the city council meets, the Press-Herald has learned.

Councilman David K. Lyman, a member of the committee, has indicated he will propose that the city prepare a counter-offer for operation of the golf course first proposed by land developer Dan E. Butcher.

Butcher, owner of a 52-acre parcel of land located south of 235th Street near the New Horizons development, in April proposed that the city lease a golf course for a

20-year term at a rental of \$300,000 per year.

IN ADDITION, Butcher asked that the city pay the property taxes on the land each year.

City Manager Edward J. Ferraro recommended that the offer be rejected because, he said, yearly costs to the city would exceed anticipated revenues.

Councilmen, however, voted to explore the possibility of negotiating with Butcher for construction and operation of golf course.

LYMAN, IT WAS indicated, will ask the special committee to recommend to the city council that a counter-offer be made which essentially would remove the risk to the city.

Under his plan, it was reported, the city would construct and assume management of the course under a lease which would require the city to pay Butcher only out of those funds actually earned by the golf course.

If payments were set at \$150,000 each year and only \$100,000 were available after operational expenses have been paid, then Butcher would receive only the \$100,000 under Lyman's plan. The remaining \$50,000 would be made up the following year if revenues were available.

ONCE THE golf course is

paid off, Lyman said, Butcher and the city would share revenues from the operation.

"The administration originally recommended against the proposal on the basis that estimated revenues would not meet lease and property tax payments," Lyman was quoted as saying.

"If we can cut out the risk, then I can see no reason why we should not proceed," he said.

THE PROPOSAL was rejected, Lyman said, "because some of the councilmen don't like the idea of not getting to ride down the street and wave at people."

Acceptance of the \$13.8 million budget is expected tomorrow night when the council holds a second public hearing at 8 o'clock.

Deadline for approval of a final budget is July 1.

Planners Approve New Subdivision
Owner Roland E. Rogers of 26224 Ocean View Ave., Lomita, has received approval of the Regional Planning Commission to subdivide 5 acres into 34 single family lots located east of Vermont Avenue and north of 228th Street.

Payments through the Torrance office of the department, Weinberger said, amounted to \$578, 171 for the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT insurance cost California employers \$45,861,045 during May of 1967, Peter Weinberg, director of the state department of employment, announced today.

This included payment made from all unemployment fund sources, including benefits paid through the state to unemployed workers, to former employees of the federal government under federal law, and also to former members of the armed forces under federal law.

Payments through the Torrance office of the department, Weinberger said, amounted to \$578, 171 for the month.

THE plaque noting the gas company's first 100 years of service was placed over the time capsule at the south end of Olvera Street near a gas light reminiscent of the original 25 gas street lights in the old Plaza area in 1867. John Anson Ford, chair-

15-Cent Hike in Trash Fee Voted

Budget Hearing Called

By TIM O'DONNELL, Press-Herald Staff Writer

A 15-cent rubbish fee increase is likely to be the only taxpayer-felt change in the city's 1967-68 budget, according to preliminary figures presented to the City Council by City Manager Edward J. Ferraro.

Councilmen last night tentatively rejected a proposed 35-cent increase in rubbish collection fees and proceeded to cut \$97,497 from Ferraro's budget.

That figure was the end result of several sessions called for a page-by-page review of the preliminary budget.

The corner-cutting deleted or reduced such items as storage files, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, salary of an equipment superintendent, allowance of funds to city employes for attendance at conventions, and a citywide "cleanup day."

THE LARGEST cut came from a decision which will allow the city to hire new employes for eight months instead of the customary year, a net savings of \$48,520.

A proposal made in one of the budget-cutting discussions not approved by the councilmen was a suggestion by David K. Lyman that the city use money it spends on the annual Armed Forces Day Parade — a sum of approximately \$23,000—to purchase a recreation room for the USO with a plaque naming Torrance as the donor.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY REMINDER . . . Calling attention to the 35th annual American Legion Fireworks show to be held the evening of July 4 in the Coliseum is 11-year-old Bobby Canfield, called "Uncle Sam's Nephew." Gathered around to assist him are (from left), Gloria Landon, 21; E. M. "Dick" Pittenger, County Council, American Legion; Jeannie Wiancko, 22; Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who will be grand marshal; and Katy Peterson, 22.

District Quietly Noting 20th Anniversary July 1

Twenty years of Torrance, the district wanted to provide its own leadership for the area's schools and has carried this tradition on to the present.

"We wanted to have local school board control in selection of staff and teachers," said Posner.

Today, the district is comprised of 36 elementary schools and four high schools which serve over 34,000 students. At its beginnings, the district was a mere four elementary schools handling approximately 1,900 children.

GRACE WRIGHT, a member of the original charter committee, said she remembered the district's beginning as hectic because when Los Angeles' district moved out, it took everything in the buildings that was not nailed down, which included instructors.

Dr. Albert Posner, one of the district's first principals, remembers the first semester as complicated because of an unexpected 500 students attending classes over original estimate.

AS A RESULT, the district was forced to begin on a tax override in order to purchase the bare necessities for running a school.

But, Mrs. Wright said, "Everyone enjoyed the break at the time because it was a bold move into a program that was started on a quality basis."

Dr. Posner, now assistant superintendent for educational services, related that

school in the district which seventh and eighth grade students attended, and consequently, Posner said, bus transportation was needed.

As the district grew, Mrs. Wright recalled, "We were ahead for many years in advancements, but I can't say we are any better than some surrounding districts."

DURING THIS period and at the present, Dr. J. H. Hull has been the superintendent. Mrs. Wright said that when the original board hired Dr. Hull and the first principals, it selected men who would be

(See 20th Year on A-2)

MURDER TRIAL ORDERED . . . Trial of Ralph Phillip Rodriguez, 27, of 2142 Del Amo Blvd., on a charge of murder was scheduled for Aug. 27 after Rodriguez entered a plea of innocent in Los Angeles Superior Court yesterday.

Rodriguez, who surrendered to Los Angeles police last May 8, is accused of the ax slaying of Karina Lee Robinson, Miss Robinson died May 5 at Harbor General Hospital. She was attacked following a minor traffic accident in the Carson area on the evening of May 4.

Holiday Closing Scheduled . . .

Summer school classes, banks, government offices, and most business and industrial plants and offices will shut down next Tuesday as the nation celebrates Independence Day. The spectacular American Legion-sponsored fireworks show will be presented in the Memorial Coliseum and a display of holiday fireworks has been scheduled for the Fisherman's Pier area of Redondo Beach among other Southland attractions. Because the Press-Herald offices will be closed on Tuesday, news and advertising deadlines have been advanced one day for the July 5 issues.

Gas Company Celebrates 100th Year

Time capsule and plaque placement ceremonies were scheduled today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Southern California Gas Co.

Celebrations began at 10 a.m. at historical Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles where state, county and city officials assisted in the ceremonies.

A birthday luncheon expected to draw more than 1,000 civic and government leaders from throughout Southern California was planned at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Dr. Kenneth McFar-

land, nationally known educator, author and lecturer, was to be keynote speaker.

During the Olvera Street dedication, Assemblyman Robert E. Badham, 71st District, and State Senator George E. Danielson, 27th District, presented a resolution from the state legislature to F. M. Banks, chairman of the gas company board.

In addition, County Supervisor Ernest E. Debs presented a resolution from the county, while the Los An-

geles City Council resolution was presented by Councilman Gilbert Lindsay.

A time capsule containing documents representing important events of the gas company's first 100 years was placed into the ground during the ceremonies.

The plaque noting the gas company's first 100 years of service was placed over the time capsule at the south end of Olvera Street near a gas light reminiscent of the original 25 gas street lights in the old Plaza area in 1867. John Anson Ford, chair-

man of El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Monument Commission, and Judge McIntyre Faries, president of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Inc., were on hand for the plaque dedication. Gas company consultant Stary Gange was master of ceremonies.

The ceremonies were brought to a dramatic close in the traditional Latin American fiesta style with the breaking of a giant candy and balloon-filled pinata in the shape of a blue flame, the gas company's symbol.